

June 24, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 928 (ROMERO) – ALCOHOL-RELATED EMERGENCY SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2002 (ITEM NO. 34-E, AGENDA OF JUNE 25, 2002)

Item No. 34-E on the June 25, 2002 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Molina to support SB 928 (Romero), and send a five-signature letter to Assemblymember Helen Thomson, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health, and to members of the Los Angeles County Delegation and the Governor, urging support of SB 928.

Senator Romero's staff indicates that she intends to assume authorship of SB 928 from its current author, Senator Joe Dunn, and amend the bill to establish a five-cent fee per alcoholic drink to fund trauma centers and emergency rooms. SB 928 currently authorizes the issuance of bonds to assist hospitals to meet the requirements of the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983.

Senator Romero's Office shared with my staff a copy of the draft language submitted to the Legislative Counsel's Office. This language does not include a distribution formula for the funds collected under the measure and instead requires the State Department of Health Services to adopt regulations for this purpose. According to her staff, Senator Romero planned for the amended bill to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, June 25, 2002. However, because the bill is not yet in print, the hearing will be indefinitely delayed.

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On February 14, 2002 Senator Romero introduced a related bill, SB 1417, which would have stated the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a nexus between the consumption of alcoholic beverages, determine the imposition of a fee on the retail sale of alcoholic beverages to mitigate the adverse health effects resulting from those sales, and determine the relationship between the proposed fee to the social and economic burdens generated by the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. SB 1417 died without a hearing.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that the County support SB 928, as proposed to be amended, because it is vital to secure a dedicated funding stream for the County's emergency medical and trauma systems. Because there is no existing Board policy regarding a fee on the sale of alcoholic beverages, a position on SB 928 is a matter for Board policy determination.

DEJ:GK
MS:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Department of Health Services